

II. REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1-8, 12-15, and 28-32 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 1-15 and 28-32 were examined. Claims 1-4, 6, 12-14, 28, 29, and 31 were allowed. Claims 5, 7-11, 15, 30, and 32 were rejected. Claims 20-27 were withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 5, 7, 8, 15, 30, and 32 are amended. The amendments to the claims were made solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, and are not to be construed as an acquiescence to any objection or rejection of any claim. Support for the amendments to claims 5, 7, 8, 15, 30, and 32 is found in the claims as originally filed, and throughout the specification, in particular at the following exemplary locations: page 11, lines 20-25. Accordingly, no new matter is added by these amendments.

Claims 9-11 and 20-27 are canceled without prejudice to renewal, without intent to acquiesce to any rejection, and without intent to surrender any subject matter encompassed by the canceled claims. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks made herein.

Withdrawal of previous rejections

Applicants note with gratitude that the following rejections, raised in the November 27, 2002 Office Action, have been withdrawn: 1) the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-15, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; 2) the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-11, and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a); and 3) the rejection of claims 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a); and the rejection of claims 9-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

The Office Action stated that claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 30, and 32 recite "a therapeutic effect" and that this phrase is not clear.

Claim 11 is canceled without prejudice to renewal, thereby rendering this rejection of claim 11 moot.

Without conceding as to the correctness of this rejection, claims 5, 7, 8, 15, 30, and 32 are amended to recite "over a period of time to reduce hypertension in the patient."

Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 30, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been adequately addressed in view of the remarks set forth above. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Rejection under 102(b)

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Danielson et al. (September 1998) *J Am. Soc. Nephrology* 9:336A, Abstract No. A1707)

Claim 9 is canceled without prejudice to renewal, thereby rendering this rejection of claim 9 moot.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been adequately addressed in view of the remarks set forth above. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by Bigazzi (U.S. Patent No. 5,952,296; "Bigazzi").

Claims 9 and 10 are canceled without prejudice to renewal, thereby rendering this rejection of claims 9 and 10 moot.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) has been adequately addressed in view of the remarks set forth above. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly anticipated by Bigazzi taken with Unemori (U.S. Patent No. 6,211,147).

Claims 9-11 are canceled without prejudice to renewal, thereby rendering this rejection of claims 9-11 moot.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been adequately addressed in view of the remarks set forth above. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

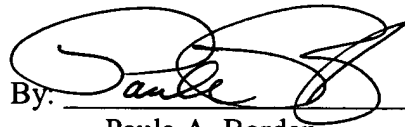
III. CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number CONN-001.

Respectfully submitted,
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